



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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Second Quarter, 1997

Whole No. 123

Vice President's Report

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Quite a show! By the time you read this the PACIFIC 97 show will be only a pleasant memory to the 168,000 attending. Our Society booth in the bowels of Moscone Center in San Francisco produced a varied flow of visitors and will surely lead to signing up some new members. Other reports appearing in this issue summarize the show itself, the CZSG meeting of May 31, and the Canal Zone exhibits.

Without intruding on these other reports the camaraderie which develops and the friendships which are renewed at such international level gatherings is a most pleasant aspect of the outsize show. One of our great West Coast specialists in postal stationery met, after many years, the East Coast "competition" against which he has been bidding; they are now firm friends.

While the time period for submission of lots for our 1997 CZSG Mail Sale is now past, I am informed that Dick Salz and Tom Brougham are pleased both with the quantity of entries and the general quality of same. It should be a great Mail Sale.

The financial condition of CZSG is excellent. The extra bulk in the envelope which contains this issue comes to you without additional cost as a benefit of your membership and through the com-

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Meeting Notices

A regional meeting of the CZSG is scheduled at:

STAMPSHOW 97, Wisconsin Center (MECCA), Milwaukee, WI, August 23, 1997, 1pm, Room E11. Contact: John C. Smith.

SESCAL 97, Wyndham Hotel, LAX, Los Angeles, CA, October 3-5, 1997. Contact: Your Editor.

A New Postage Due Stamp — Former J4b is Real

by Gary B. Weiss, David J. Leeds, and James W. Crumpacker

Previous articles in this series have concentrated on the specimen overprints in the American Bank Note Company (ABNCo) archives. In this case, the archive material is even more important in what it tells us about the basic stamps. The information will require reevaluation of the postage due listings.

For many years the Scott Catalogue listed two varieties of #J4: J4b, the 1c stamp with Type V overprint reading up, Fig. 1, and J4a, the 1c stamp with the same overprint reading down, Fig. 2.



Fig. 1. Proposed J11A (formerly J4b).



Fig. 2. Proposed J11Aa (formerly J4a).

These were delisted in 1973 because some experts concluded that they were bogus (CZP 22:8). Reasons that they were felt to be fakes are enumerated in *Canal Zone Stamps* on page 236 and include 1) the

overprint does not correspond to any type used during the period the Second Postage Due Series was current; 2) the basic stamps have a different shade (black brown instead of olive brown), different paper, and a different gum (white instead of yellow); 3) there was only one printing; and 4) the cancellation seen on used examples of J4b was unknown on any other material and was also felt to be bogus. Lawson Entwistle has since concluded that the cancellation is genuine.

The postage due lot in the ABNCo sale included three specimen sheets of what had once been listed as Scott #J4b, Fig. 3. Several conclusions were obvious. J4b had been printed by ABNCo and was therefore not a bogus overprint prepared to defraud collectors. The used copies are genuine examples of this stamp paying postage due, the used sheets in existence suggesting that payment was made for

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New Postage Due

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Fig. 3. Proposed J11A-S.

bulk mailings or receipts. All examples of this stamp are used and this should be expected as the sale of unused postage due stamps was illegal; unused examples of the previous dues are assumed to have been obtained by favor. In contrast, all the copies of J4a are unused and are much scarcer than J4b. It represents an inverted overprint (reading down instead of up) and as an error probably left the post office under the counter and unused.

As would be expected, the three specimen sheets have the basic engraved number F 4484 as in all of the ABNCo postage dues, a red F 7149, SPECIMEN in red capital letters, and are dated September 21, 1922. This date shows that they were prepared after Scott #J10 and J11. They represent a "set" of dues between the 1919 #J10-11 and the 1924 #J12-14. Although this stamp deserves its own simple major number, to avoid the need to renumber all the subsequent postage dues we propose this be given a new major number #J11A. The error, overprint reading up, is a major error and we list it as #J11Aa. Information on the plate layout and setting comes from both the specimen sheets and used sheets. In addition to the limitations of xeroxes for plating, the specimen overprints and the cancellations obscure parts of the Type V overprint. A copy with specimen overprint was previously illustrated in our introductory article, CZP 115:13.

The marginal markings on this issue are simple and identical to the sheets of Scott #J4. There are brown centerlines between Positions 5-6, 41-51, 50-60, and 95-96. A small AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY, NEW YORK imprint is centered above Positions 5-6 and below Positions 95-96. Above Position 10 is F-4484.

Normal spacing between CANAL and ZONE varies from 8.75mm to 9.1mm.

Spacing varieties:

Pos. 25 & 38, 8.2mm.

Pos. 70, 9.2mm.

Broken letters:

Pos. 5 & 41, Top of E missing.

Pos. 19, Broken L at bottom.

Pos. 47, top of left serif L short.

Pos. 66, Broken N2 right vertical stroke.

Pos. 89, Broken O at bottom left.

There are a number of weakly printed letters and a few minor broken letters. Half of all overprint positions have broken or variant letters. The overprint form appears worn.

The length of CANAL is 10.5mm \pm 0.1mm; the length of Zone 8.5mm \pm 0.1mm for all positions. There are no C over Z or L over E varieties. Approximately 14 positions show a very slight dropping of the E. The best example occurs in position 81 but is less than what is seen on the Type V overprints on the Portrait or Coat of Arms issues.

The archives also contained three sheets of the 4c (F 6234) number, Fig. 4 archived January 8, 1920. As this stamp was never issued (no examples without specimen overprint have been reported), it must be considered an essay. It was previously illustrated in our introductory article, Fig. 11, CZP 115:13.



Fig. 4. 4c Essay.

The marginal markings on the 4c sheets are identical to those on the 1c sheets described above. The normal position of the 4 with respect to its location between CANAL and ZONE floats slightly horizontally. The right side of the vertical bar of 4 is normally 3.5mm to 3.8mm from ZONE. In 25 positions the 4/ZONE spacing varies from 2.8 to 3mm on Positions 33, 35, 51, 59, 61, 71, and 100; it is 3.2 to 3.3mm on 18 other positions. The CANAL to ZONE spacings are all 9.2mm \pm 0.1mm, with two consistent exceptions. Positions 45 and 61 have a spacing of 9.0mm. There are no C over Z shifts, but Position 22 exhibits L over E.

The 13.8 x 2.4mm red SPECIMEN overprint is doubled on Position 94 of Sheet B.

In summary, the postage due archives demonstrate the need for two additional listings in the Scott Catalogue, a 1c postage due with "Type V" overprint in blue, known only used, and an inverted overprint of this stamp known only unused. Pricing is difficult in that all copies recently sold were sold as fakes. The invert is very much scarcer than the normal. The last pricing (Scott 1973) gave catalog values of \$2.50 for the used, and \$10 for the mint inverted. We suggest current values of \$10 for the used #J11A and \$200 for the mint #J11Aa. These should be listed between #J11 and J12 chronologically, replacing the old,

Other Publications of Note:

"The Evolution of a Canal Zone Air Post Envelope", by George K. Sioras, in *Lindbergh Notes*, *Jack Knight Air Log*, April-June 1997, pp. 69-71.

An illustrated article on the history of the 2¢ Air Post envelopes and why they were required even before the CZ had commercial air mail service. Sioras pushes back and illustrates the ERD of UC2a to January 20, 1928, previously reported as February 6, 1929.

Jack Knight Air Log is a quarterly publication of the American Air Mail Society. The *Lindbergh Notes* Editor can be contacted at 25 Brighton Road, Brookline, MA 02146.

"The Emergency Flood Flights of Costa Rica of the Winter of 1928-1929" by Richard H. Saundry, *The Latin American Air Mail Study Group*, *Jack Knight Air Log*, April-June 1997, pp. 41-47.

The article discusses and illustrates covers of the U.S. Army Flood Flights from the Canal Zone to, within, and from Costa Rica. While a bit wordy it provides some background to Canal Zone air mail collectors and our CZSG publications. It is of interest because of its strong and knowledgeable Costa Rican orientation. A copy is suggested for serious Canal Zone air mail collectors. Dr. Richard H. Saundry can be reached at Gwrych Cottage, Godstone Road, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4PL, England.

"The Journey That Sparked a Canal", by Daniel F. Ring, *The American Philatelist*, September 1994, pp. 823-825.

An interesting narrative on the recall of the battleship USS *Oregon* from San Francisco, around the Horn to the Atlantic Coast. Its 14,000 mile voyage in 47 days demonstrated the need for the Canal. The article is illustrated with covers to the *Oregon*.

"FAM 5 First Dispatches, Costa Rica to Canal Zone and Panama, 13 March 1930", by Allan M. Harris, *COPACARTA*, June 1997, pp. 80-82.

U.S. Post Office, *Post Office Bulletins* and press clippings are used to solve date problems of this first FAM 5 flight from San Jose, Costa Rica to the Canal Zone and Panama. The question answered is why the mailing and receiving postmarks are two days apart for a five hour flight. Several explanations are offered.

COPACARTA is the quarterly journal of the Colombia/Panama Philatelic Study Group. Contact Editor Jim Cross, Box 2245, El Cajon, CA 92021 for membership information.

WANTED

CZSG Webmaster

If you have the necessary skills and interest, please contact the Editor or President.

Albrook Post Office Closes

by Matthew Hovious

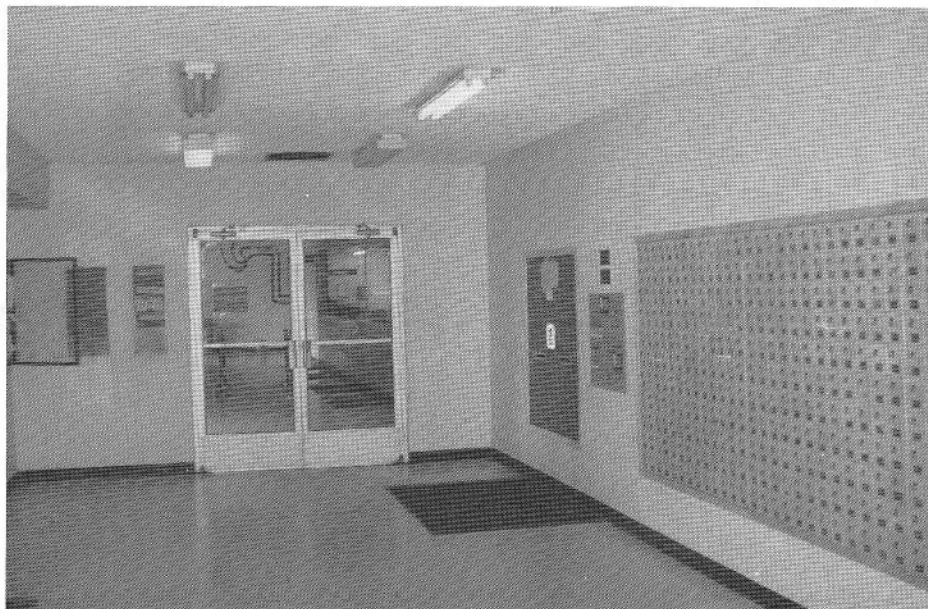
An important chapter in Canal Zone and post-Zone postal history comes to an end this summer with the closure of APO AA 34002, Albrook Air Force Station.

This installation was opened as the Balboa Fill Landing Field in 1922. It was renamed two years later after 1st Lt. Frank P. Albrook, its first commander, was killed in a crash at Chanute Field, Illinois, November 11, 1924. With the Second World War already under way in Europe, tooling up for canal defense, a Pacific airbase was required supplementing France Field. Albrook Field was manned and commissioned its first post office on December 1, 1939. Less than three years later Albrook's post office was designated as APO 825, as the U.S. attempted to mask the locations of its military post offices from unwanted attention. In February 1946 cancelling devices bearing the name Albrook Field once again came into use; two years later the devices were changed to reflect Albrook's status as an Air Force Base, following the creation of this branch of the military. By 1975 as Howard Field increased air activity, Albrook was redesignated as an Air Force Station, and it has remained Albrook AFS ever since. Postal markings remained unchanged as Albrook AFB.

A military postal designation **APO MI 34002** was assigned September 1, 1978, even before the CZPS withdrawal September 28, 1979.

On July 15, 1991, all military post offices worldwide added a prefix: **AE** for Europe, **AP** for the Pacific Area, and **AA** for the Americas. Thus Albrook became **APO AA 34002**, which it remains today.

Postal operations were virtually paralyzed for three days in August 1992 by Hurricane Andrew's devastation of Homestead Air Force Base, south of Miami;



Lobby, Albrook Post Office, looking toward stamp counter.
In distance, Money Order/Insured Mail counter.

Homestead was never rebuilt. Ironically, as SOUTHCOM (Southern Command) prepares to move to Miami, Albrook is now the site of the Miami Relocation Center. Today mail departing Panama APOs now arrives in the US through Charleston, SC.

Albrook also services mailboxes located off-post. Mail deposited in the drop boxes in front of the Corozal Commissary and the Corozal Post Exchange receives a 34002 postmark.

Albrook has traditionally been equipped with a full range of stamps and franking machines, although at times any stamps beyond those in booklet form have been rather scarce. A coil-stamp machine located in the Post Office Lobby was dismantled in 1992 after humidity reaching the stamps literally "gummed up the works".

In March 1997 the closure of Albrook's post office began with the dismantling of

its mailboxes. Albrook's 4453 mailboxes were torn out and built into the new postal facility located at Howard AFB; 2650 new mailboxes were installed at Albrook, although many were never issued. Those receiving mail at Albrook were given their choice of a new box at Clayton, Rodman, or Howard.

Albrook AFS will close on October 1, 1997. For a base built on landfill dug from Gaillard Cut, the Post Office's last day of operation will fittingly be Canal Day, August 15.

Additional reading:

Robert J. Karrer *ICCJ* 95-37

Dan Hagedorn, *Alae Supra Canalem*, 1995

Lawson Entwistle, *Postal Markings of the Canal Zone*, CZSG Handbook No. 9, 1992

Money Orders

From the *U.S. Postal Bulletin*, October 14, 1948:

"MONEY ORDERS DRAWN FOR PAYMENT IN THE CANAL ZONE MUST NAME A DEFINITE PAYING OFFICE"

"The Canal Zone Postal Administration has called the attention of this Department to the fact that many postmasters draw money orders for payment on 'The Panama Canal Zone,' 'Canal Zone,' 'Colon Canal Zone,' 'Panama City, Canal Zone,' etc.

"In such cases payment is necessarily delayed and considerable additional labor is caused the main office at Balboa Heights as well as the post office at which the order is presented.

"The Canal Zone is not a post office, the name being applied only to the territory ceded to the United States by Panama for the construction of the Panama Canal. The names of the post offices in the Canal Zone are as follows:

Albrook Air Force Base, C.Z.
Ancon, C.Z.
Balboa, C.Z.
Balboa Heights, C.Z.
Cocoli, C.Z.
Coco Solo, C.Z.
Corozal, C.Z.
Cristobal, C.Z.
Curundu, C.Z.
Diablo Heights, C.Z.
Fort Amador, C.Z.
Fort Clayton, C.Z.
Fort Davis, C.Z.

Fort Gulick, C.Z.
Fort Sherman, C.Z.
France Air Force Base, C.Z.
Gamboa, C.Z.
Gatun, C.Z.
Howard Air Force Base, C.Z.
Margarita, C.Z.
Pedro Miguel, C.Z.
Quarry Heights, C.Z.
Rodman, C.Z.

"For persons living in Colon, Republic of Panama, orders should be drawn on Cristobal, C.Z.; while for residents of the city of Panama, Republic of Panama, orders should be drawn on Ancon, C.Z.

"Postmasters should not draw orders on any other post offices for payment within the zone."

From George Cosentini

***The Canal Zone
Philatelist***
A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42

David J. Leeds, Editor
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Los Angeles, CA 90049

The Canal Zone Philatelist (ISSN 0746-004 X) is published quarterly for \$8.00 per year, which includes membership in the Canal Zone Study Group, 1749 W. Sauvignon Dr., Tucson, AZ 85746. Periodical publications postage paid at Tucson, AZ. POSTMASTER: Send address changes and complaints of non-delivery to the Secretary, John C. Smith, 408 Redwood Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60193.

Display advertising accepted from CZSG members only at the following rates per insertion:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| One column, two inches | \$10.00 |
| One column, five inches | 20.00 |
| Two columns, five inches | 35.00 |

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Advertising Manager, Richard Spielberg, 4535 Via Del Buey, Yorba Linda, CA 92686. (714) 693-3349; FAX (818) 915-8279.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone or FAX the Editor: (310) 472-0282. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Secretary's Report
John C. Smith
408 Redwood Lane
Schaumburg, IL 60193

As of May 7, 1997, our membership stood at 753 members, plus 65 holdouts. As always, we will do our best to retain them by sending out two reminder notices.

The American Philatelic Society is having its STAMPSHOW 97 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 21-24. There will be a CZSG meeting, Saturday, August 23 at 1pm, Room E11. The program for this meeting will be showing off your best stamps, covers and any item of interest. I will have my cover collection on display.

Vice President's Report

(Continued from page 13)

mitment of individual authors to research and dissemination of quality publications. Several other CZSG booklets are nearing completion.

A mid-term project which I will be undertaking is called **Project 2000**. The culmination of this will be a CZSG 8 1/2" x 11" booklet with an updated version of the **Check List** from *Canal Zone Stamps* covering Scott Nos. 31-69 only. The new information derives from the American Bank Note Company Canal Zone Specimen sheets auctioned by Christie's in 1991. These sheets consist largely of the various 31-69 series and some J numbers. Our job of basic reporting on the Specimen sheets will probably be completed sometime in 1999. A subsequent **Check List** for those postally issued stamps and varieties which emanated from the Specimen printings is the logical continuation.

Your interest in and support of the annual Mail Sale is what makes all this possible.

Correction

The name of one of the authors of an article in *CZP* 121:42 was inadvertently omitted. "ABNCo Specimens of the Type IV Overprints", by David J. Leeds, James W. Crumpacker, Gary B. Weiss, and David T. Zemer. Please correct your copy.

Inbound Mail

A 1908 inbound registered cover (Fig. 1) from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada illustrates the exceptionally good service provided by early 20th Century post offices. The letter shows a Halifax cancel of January 7, New York backstamp January 9, and Cristobal registry receipt January 15. While the cover does not appear to be philatelic, the revalued postal stationery, use of the early 1¢ yellow Queen, and the half-cent block of four indicates possible philatelic inspiration. The total of 7¢ includes the 5¢ registration fee.

The second cover (Fig. 2), censored, originated in the Caribbean port of Puerto Cortes, Honduras July 28, 1942 addressed to a United Fruit Company ship at Cristobal. There is a Fruit Company backstamp receiving mark dated August 3, at which time the ship apparently having left, the cover was forwarded to Wilmington, California. The boxed marking (center front) is from the U.S. (Los Angeles) Customs Service, EXAMINED AND PASSED. The first two words are crossed out, so apparently it was passed without examination. An additional single line date stamp February 3, 1943 indicates that the letter was held after reaching Wilmington. The Spanish language U.S. censor label was probably applied in Los Angeles.

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Book Review

by David L. Farnsworth

Diagrams and Photographs of Railroad Equipment Used to Construct the Panama Canal 1881-1914, researched and drawn by Bert E. Davis, Introduction by Julius Grigore, Jr. (Balboa, Republic of Panama: Julius Grigore, Jr., 1994) (no ISBN) 152 pages by the reviewer's count, 8 1/2" x 11" photocopy bound with a 19-hole plastic spiral, available from Julius Grigore, Jr., 425 Harbor Drive, South, Venice, FL 34285, \$15 postpaid to U.S. addresses and \$22 to foreign addresses.

This is one of Capt. Grigore's better works. Two other books of his were reviewed in CZP 107 and 120.

The book is full of photos and engineering diagrams of construction equipment for the canal. The drawings are external views of the equipment and were done by the late Bert E. Davis. Mr. Davis worked as an engineer with the Panama Canal Company, beginning in 1925 as a draftsman. He also worked for the Engineering Drafting Section of the Baldwin Locomotive Works starting in 1932.

The drawings are clear even though many were reduced to fit the book's pages. There is little text, but the captions are very informative. This could be an excellent source for the railroad buff or the scale modeler.



Fig. 1 Inbound mail, Halifax, Nova Scotia to CZ, 1908.

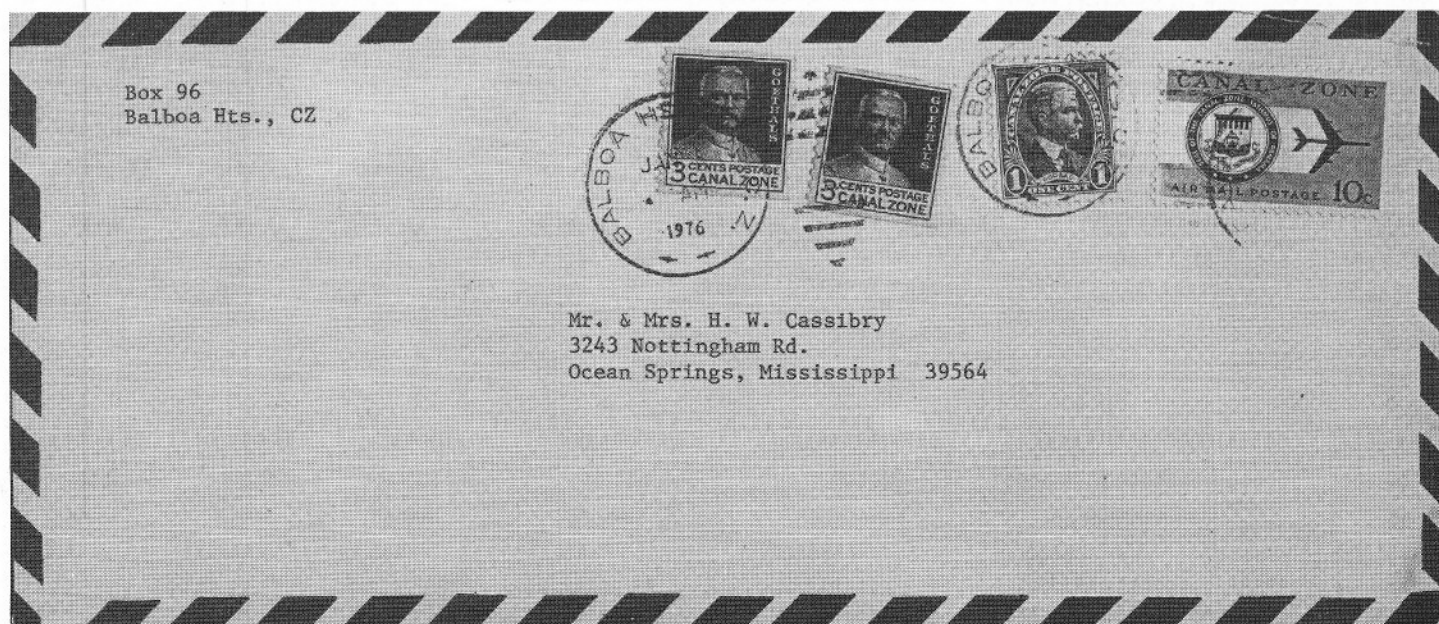


Fig. 2 Inbound mail, Puerto Cortes, Honduras to CZ, 1942.

17¢ Air Mail Rate

The 17¢ Canal Zone air mail rate to the United States was reported in CZP 41:29, the 4th Quarter of 1976.

For a brief 10 day period, December 31, 1975 to January 9, 1976, the air mail rate to the United States was 17¢ per ounce. After that date all first class mail went by air, and the rate reverted to the surface rate of 13¢ per ounce. Two of the three covers that have been reported are illustrated here. Both are from the correspondence of Hugh Cassibry.



Inbound Mail

(Continued from page 18)

A 1910 inbound registry from Noumea, New Caledonia addressed to Dr. Perry at Ancon is shown as Fig. 3. The 66 centimes represents about 13¢ U.S. gold which is probably correct postage, equivalent to approximately 5¢ foreign postage, plus 8¢ registration. Dr. Perry maintained a huge correspondence, so while the cover is mail between stamp collectors it is in every way proper. There are registry backstamps from both San Francisco and New York, but strangely, there are no Canal Zone markings.

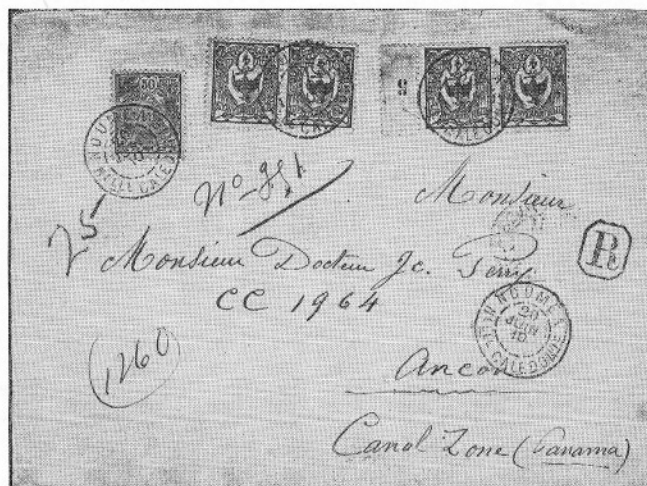


Fig. 3. Inbound Mail, Noumea, New Caledonia to CZ, 1910.

Canal Zone Study Group Membership Meeting at PACIFIC 97 May 31, 1997

by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

The CZSG meeting was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 31, 1997, in conjunction with the PACIFIC 97 exhibition. There were 46 participants (including four guests); with Takahiro Ohta from Japan, Gernot Stephan from Germany, and Paul Weda from the Netherlands having travelled the greatest distance.

Tom Brougham opened the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves. David Leeds was recognized with a commendation for the exceptional work in preparing the Court of Honor Exhibit to which members of the CZSG contributed material. The attention of members was called to the three other exhibits containing Canal Zone material: Canal Zone Second Air Mail Series by Paul Ammon; Booklet Panes and Covers - United States Possessions, Richard Larkin; and Canal Zone Postal Stationery 1907-1924 by Irwin Gibbs.

The Alfred R. Bew Service Award consisting of a medal and framed certificate was presented to three members who have served the CZSG well over an extended period of time: Dick Larkin who has served for 14 years as Treasurer, John Smith who has been Secretary for ten years, and Dick Bates, who was Vice President for six years, President for eight years and is currently a member of the Board.

A description of several ongoing projects brought to members attention the efforts under way, and provided a call for contributions of information and/or material, particularly for those still far from completion. Two projects that have been completed are distributed with this issue of *The Canal Zone Philatelist*. They are the ninth updated Cumulative Index 1953-1996 of *The Canal Zone Philatelist* compiled by Gary Weiss. And Cary Finder's *Philatelic Announcement Cards of the Canal Zone Postal Service, Handbook 11*. Later, *Canal Zone Siderography* by William T. Moore is due.

Projects currently making progress include a revised and updated *Postal Stationery Catalogue* by Irwin Gibbs, who reported that in the last two years he has recorded more than 250 changes to include and a listing of first series covers by Dick Salz, who reported that he currently has a listing and photocopy of 641 such covers (including one spotted at a booth at this show) that will form the nucleus of this Handbook. Additionally, projects 2000 and 2005, which will provide in two stages an update to the checklist in *Canal Zone Stamps*. The first stage will cover Scott numbers 31-69 and

the postage dues from that same era that will incorporate new varieties, spacings, and information gained from the Specimen material from the vaults of the American Bank Note Company, the description of which gave rise to some discussion of what used to be labelled J4b before it was delisted from the Scott catalogue in 1972, but which was found to exist in the American Bank Note cache, and whether it should now be identified as regularly issued. This is illustrated in the lead article along with an unissued postage due from the specimen material. The second stage will provide a fully updated checklist.

Longer term projects described included handbooks on 1) *Identification of Canal Zone Stamps and Detection of Fakes* by Dick Bates, 2) *Special Delivery Usage Originating from the Canal Zone* by Gary Weiss, and 3) *Rate Information and Usage* by Tom Brougham. Jim Nolan mentioned that he was interested in getting information about money orders from the punch card period from 1950 into the 70's, as there were four different series used in the U.S. but only two analogous forms have been reported from the Canal Zone. And Paul Ammons indicated that he was continuing the work of Harry Metzger on World War II Censored Covers. Dick Larkin indicated that there should be sufficient funds in the CZSG treasury to fund all of these projects, with plenty of room for additional projects as well.

Dick Salz read a letter from Jeanne Stough concerning the ceremonies for the closing of Gorgas Hospital which her grandfather had helped to construct in 1904, and one from Lawson Entwistle.

Several items discussed at the meeting of the Board of Directors the previous evening were summarized, including plans to be a participating society in sponsoring a show in the near future, with WESTPEX in 1998 or 1999, TEXPEX in 1998 or 1999, CHICAGOPEX jointly with COPAPHIL in 1998, or SESCOAL in 2001. BALPEX has also expressed an interest in having the CZSG return. David Leeds discussed the need to develop a new Editor to replace him when the time comes. David indicated that he is developing a bibliography of Canal Zone reference materials and that the Board had discussed several possible ways to make such materials accessible to the entire membership. The Board also approved naming Gil Plass as an Honorary Member.

The meeting concluded with a show and tell session ranging from an inverted CANAL slug discovered in the specimen series for Scott 39 but not known on the regularly issued stamps, to interesting covers, money orders, fakes, varieties, etc.

Richard D. Bates, Jr.

CZSG Exhibits PACIFIC 97

by Thomas Brougham

Three outstanding Canal Zone stamp exhibits and *The Canal Zone Philatelist* entered the competition at PACIFIC 97 and were awarded medals. Each of the stamp exhibits had won APS national gold medals before acceptance at this once in 10 years International FIP show. Each was limited to five frames. Additionally the Study Group sponsored a Court of Honor exhibit of "Canal Zone Gems".

The attractive medals presented are a 50 by 36 mm bronze oblong plaque with a gold insert reproduction (of varying gold content) of the 5¢ or 10¢ U.S. 1847 over an outline map of the United States. The reverse has the show logo and the San Francisco skyline.

Paul Ammons showed his "Canal Zone Second Airmail Issue" which focused on Scott C6 to C14 and officials derived from that issue. The exhibit started with one-of-a-kind design material: an essay and three beautiful proofs. The exhibit was particularly strong in perf 'P's, showing many multiples and numerous different orientations of the 'P'. The overprinted officials were strongly represented with multiples and covers. The award was a Vermeil medal.

Irwin Gibbs showed his "Canal Zone Postal Stationery 1907-1924". This exhibit was virtually complete. It appeared to me that every known variety, including all the major errors, of the pre-1924 envelopes and postal cards were present, including nearly all the Mt. Hope Christmas Card combinations. A highlight was material from the ABNCo production file of the "Coat of Arms" issue. The many registration envelopes, mint and used, were stunning! The exhibit was awarded a Vermeil medal.

Richard Larkin showed his "U.S. Possession Booklets," of which two-thirds is Canal Zone material. It showed all the various CZ panes up to #117 and at least one version of complete booklets for each catalogued pane, no small feat when you remember Scott 55e and 102a. It also included various pane positions, errors in booklets (inverted centers, and row without overprint), rare booklet cover and binding styles, and usages of booklet stamps on covers. Highlight of the exhibit was the uncut full booklet sheets from ABNCo archives. These are the only full sheets that exist. The exhibit was awarded a Large Vermeil medal.

As the exhibitor receiving the highest medal in a major show containing three or more exhibits of predominately Canal Zone material, Richard also received the CZSG Exhibitor's Medal. Congratulations to all three of these outstanding exhibits. They are truly exhibits to interest, educate, and arouse desire in CZ collectors.

The *Canal Zone Philatelist* received a Silver Bronze Medal. This is one step up from its previous international competition at AMERIPEX 1986, in Chicago, where it was awarded a Large Bronze. The full 1996 Volume 32 was judged. The Diploma awarded to the Editor gives the following scores: Treatment of Contents 24/40; Originality, Significance & Depth of Research 25/40; Technical Matters 14/15; Presentation 5/5, for a total score of 68/100. Discussion later with one of the Literature Judges indicated that the journal was not "reader friendly" — would not invite new members, but was directed at the specialized interests of the present membership."

David J. Leeds organized the Study Group-sponsored Court of Honor exhibit, "Canal Zone Gems". It is described in another column in this issue of CZP. It was my pleasant duty at the general membership meeting to present David with a Special Commendation from the CZSG in appreciation for his work in organizing this outstanding exhibit.

Canal Zone Gems

by David J. Leeds

The Canal Zone Study Group was represented in the Pacific Rim Court of Honor at PACIFIC 97. While non-competitive, the exhibit "Canal Zone Gems" was awarded the usual Large Gold Medal. The exhibit was organized and assembled by David J. Leeds. Richard Spielberg assisted in the selection of "gems" exhibited.

The five frames started with a group of forerunners: New Grenada, — U.S. Dispatch Agency, — Wells Fargo Isthmus Agency (both east and westbound covers), — British Crowned Circles "PAID AT PANAMA", — PRR 1891 Interoffice mail, — French Packets, — French Canal Mail, — French Canal fantasies, — and Colombia stamps used in Panama.

Essays: 2c/10c 1904, the "8 cts." on 10c, and 1905 (?) hand painted water color and pencil designs by Waterlow & Layton.

First days or earliest reported dates of the first issue and later. The 8¢ and 10¢ Second Series on cover and in plate number blocks. A mind boggling selection of inverts, doubles, pairs one without, Scott 15 without bar and bar at bottom, 10 copies of the "new" setting of Scott 16, pairs imperf between, the scarcer Fifth Series errors, Type III mint and used blocks and covers in all printings (except for the 2c mint which was represented by a used block of 8, the largest known block), two copies of the wrong head 40a, the largest known used blocks of Scott 58 and 59, Scott 55 and 56 on covers, both errors of 67 and a beautiful mint block of 8, plus all manner of errors, none of them the common ones. Among the U.S., ZONE ZONE, ZONE CANAL, 12¢ ZONE in-



Fig. 1. Scott 40a in Court of Honor PACIFIC 97 Handbook.

verted, CANAL only, ZONE only, wrong fonts, three double transfers, scarce star plates, Die Proofs, Special Delivery Provisionals, Bliss Dues (covers and the only block known), all of the postage dues on cover to 1924, J4b, Perf "P" on covers, O3 mint block, O8 used block of 8, U9 background only, Frijoles and Monte Lirio cancels, CZ Zepps, — you name it — were there.

A real mind numbing display. Putting it together was a lot of fun. I started by submitting my want list to several of our members who said they were willing to cooperate. They did — the names are listed below. There were time and insurance constraints with most of the material arriving within a few days only a week before the show opened. Dummy pages had been worked up on the computer so as new material came in it meant rearranging pages rather than starting from a blank page. Crucial decisions had to be made, mostly in what to leave out. Additional material, enough for another gold exhibit was discarded, left lying on the dining room table. Richard Spielberg helped me "bite the bullet" on what to omit. We were not guided by owner insurance evaluations but wanted some "balance" and representation of the many specialties within Canal Zone philately. I think most were pleased by the result. It was unquestionably the strongest Canal Zone display ever put into five frames. I doubt that the exercise will be repeated. It is too much effort, too much risk, some expense, and requires dedicated collectors willing to share their material. A more limited exhibit on a single topic might be more feasible for a future show where a large number of our members would be present.

The most difficult part of the entire exercise was parting with the borrowed material I had grown so fond of. I would have liked to keep most of it, but I don't

think our people would take kindly to that.

Participants were Richard Bates, Jr., Thomas Brougham, William W. Cleland, Paul C. Dreibus, David J. Leeds, David Proctor, John C. Smith, Richard Spielberg, Gernot Stephan, and Gary B. Weiss. Our many thanks to these generous as well as knowledgeable members.

Canal Zone Issue of 1912 —
Wrong Head Error

The "...Gems" gained publicity in two publications. First, *Pacific 97 Handbook / The Congress Book 1997* catalogued all the exhibits with brief paragraphs of each. "...Gems" was illustrated on page 49 with a photo of Scott 40a and a blurb, Fig. 1.

Second, *Stamp Collecting* picked up the item *verbatim* in their May 12 issue, page 50. Canal Zone stamps have not had this much exposure since the "missing bridge" in 1962!

CZSG recognized the work with a Special Commendation, Fig. 2.

Special Commendation



presented to

DAVID J. LEEDS

for organizing the exhibit of
"Canal Zone Gems"

Court of Honor
Pacific '97

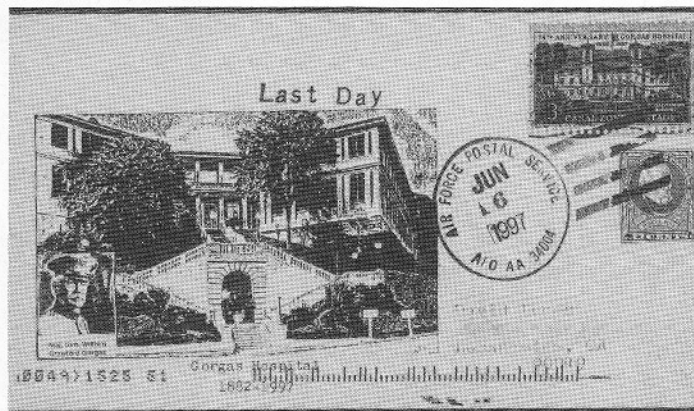
May 31, 1997 *Thomas Brougham, President*

Fig. 2. CZSG Special Commendation.

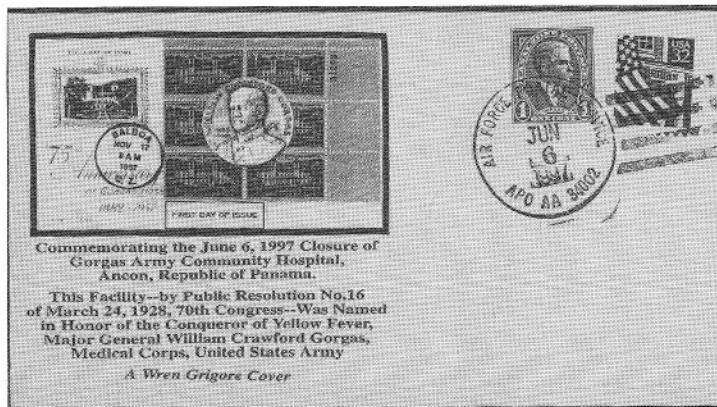
Gorgas Hospital, Last Day

Gorgas Army Community Hospital, Ancon (in the former Canal Zone), ceased operations and was delivered to the Republic of Panama June 6, 1997. In 1957 C. Z. Scott #148 honored the 75th anniversary of the hospital. CZSG Member Jeanne Stough attended the closure ceremonies and prepared cacheted covers commemorating the event, as did Julius Grigore. Covers mailed at nearby U.S. military bases are advertised in this issue of CZP. Jeanne has a trip report of the event which will be in our next issue.

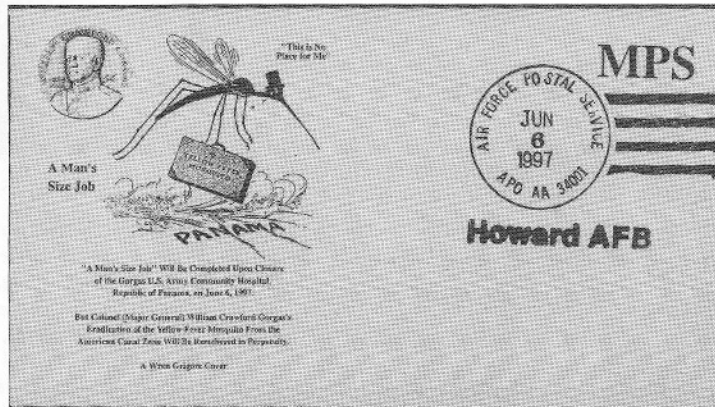
Three last day Gorgas Hospital covers are shown



Stough Cachet.



Grigore/Smith Cachet.



Grigore Mosquito Cachet.

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

This report gives results of auctions of Canal Zone stamps and covers during the first quarter of 1997, January 1 through March 31. It was a period of only modest activity; consignors may have been holding back material in anticipation of the numerous late May/June auctions associated with PACIFIC 97.

The trend for the last couple of years has been toward expanded descriptions of individual lots, which results in fewer lots listed than in the "Auction" columns of many years ago. With the emphasis on VF centering in recent years and the change by Scott's Catalogue to pricing on such basis, we rarely report on auction offerings which lack a photograph; sometimes a photocopy, particularly of covers, is privately obtained and put to use.

Much of this trend is indirectly caused by the auction houses. The big New York firms are looking for \$150 per lot minimum expected realization. Anything of lesser value is deemed unworthy of a photo in the house catalog, so items formerly listed individually are now grouped. Even the smaller regional auction companies have cut back on photos. It would be nice to report on a #37, 52, or 64 OG, NH, VF (entirely possible to do 20 years ago), but such issues just cannot be listed separately by an auction house at a profit - another good reason to participate in our annual CZSG Mail Sale.

For the realizations below, the selling price is shown first followed by the catalog value, in parenthesis, from the 1997 Scott's Specialized; any commission is included.

- 1, OG, H, F \$358 (\$550) Shreves
- 8, OG, NH, F+ \$98 (\$160) Superior
- 15, OG, H, F \$1980 (\$3000) Shreves
- 22a, horiz. pair imperf. between, no gum, a wrinkle, VF \$550 (\$1250) Shreves
- 22a, horiz. pair imperf. between, OG, H, F+ \$1438 (\$1250) Ivy & Mader
- 36a, "10 cts." inverted, OG, H, VF \$264 (\$300) Shreves
- 38b, booklet pane of 6, imperf. margins, OG, H, intab only, F+ to VF, \$805 (\$750) Ivy & Mader
- 39e, inverted center with overprint reading down, OG, NH, barely F \$308 (\$700) Shreves
- 46b, double overprint, OG, H, F+ \$345 (\$300) Ivy & Mader
- 47, OG, HR, F \$2645 (\$3000) Superior
- 48, OG, NH, VF+ \$605 (\$550) Shreves
- 48, OG, NH, VF+ \$288 (\$550) Drews
- 55a, overprint reading down, OG, NH, F \$143 (\$250) Shreves
- 60-66, F-VF on 7 separate F-VF covers, nearly all Ancon 11/18/21 to Baltimore. Philatelic. \$863 (\$n/a) Harmer's
- 61a, overprint reading down, OG, H, VF \$276 (\$225) Ivy & Mader
- 73a, booklet pane of 6, OG, HR, F \$92 (\$200) Regency
- 73, pl. bl. of 6, #15632-L, OG, NH, F-VF \$138 (\$175) Bel-Aire

- 81, OG, H, VF \$176 (\$250) Bennett
- 86b, CANAL inverted, dull OG, H, F in pair with normal, \$440 (\$954) Shreves
- 86, pl. bl. of 6, #16363-B, OG, NH, VF \$121 (\$165) Bel-Aire
- 95, bl. of 4, OG, NH, F+ to VF \$311 (\$550) Regency
- 117b, cpl. booklet of 2 handmade panes, OG, NH, bit of staple rust o/w VF \$144 (\$450) Superior
- 157a, silver (bridge) omitted, OG, NH, VF \$6900 (\$7000) Ivy & Mader
- C2, OG, NH, barely F pl. #115181-T single, \$18 (\$100) Superior
- CO8, used, CTO, no gum, F \$83 (\$150) Paradise Valley
- J7, OG, H, F+ \$29 (\$110) Superior
- J8, two strips of 3, F, on separate F covers, one from Barbados 1917 w/Barbados 1/2p stamps, other from St. Kitts-Nevis 1916 w/St. Kitts-Nevis 1p stamp, both to Cristobal \$633 (\$n/a) Harmer's
- J19, pl. bl. of 6, #14026-R, TG, NH, F-VF \$88 (\$140) Bel-Aire
- J20, OG, H, VF \$253 (\$150) Ivy & Mader
- O8, used, CTO, no gum, barely F \$286 (\$675) Bennett
- O8, used, CTO, OG, H, F+ \$385 (\$675) Shreves
- UC2a, with C3 added, FAM5-2 Balboa 2/6/29 to NY, VF \$58 (\$190) Drews

The addresses of the auction houses mentioned in this column are shown in previous issues.

FAM 5-2 Santa Marta/ Barranquilla - Cristobal - Miami

The bulk of first flight covers on FAM 5-2, February 10-13, 1929, are from Cristobal to Miami. The cover shown originated in Colombia and carries both Colombian postage and SCADTA airmail postage. It apparently received internal air service since both Santa Marta and Barranquilla have the same date, February 5, 1929. Several SCADTA continuations of FAM 5-1 have been reported; however, this is a first for an extended origin shown in our journal.

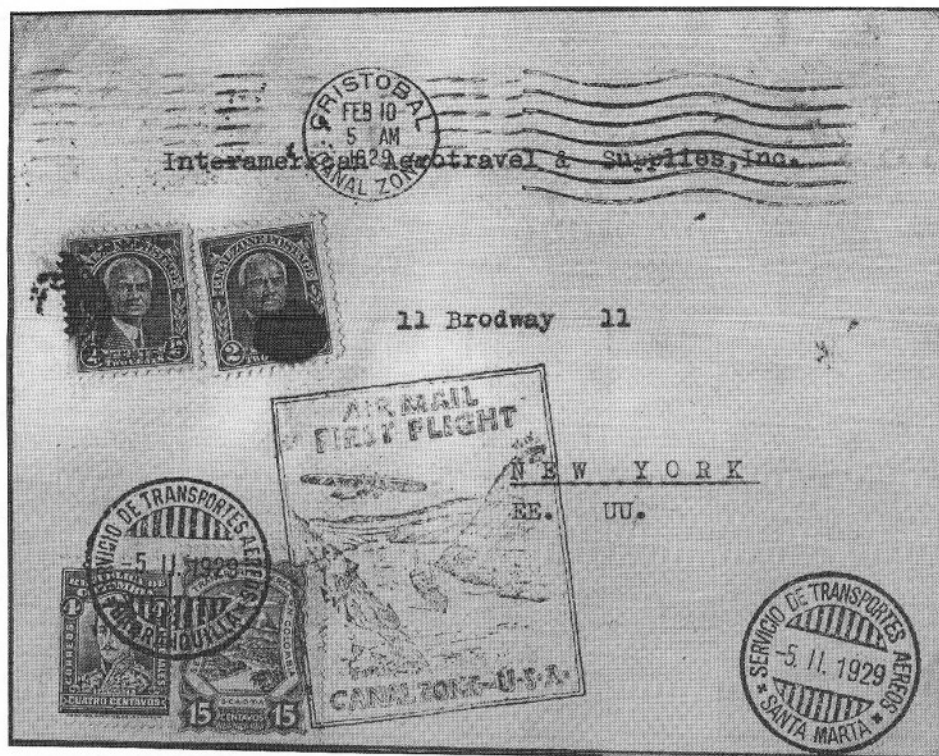
National Post Office Day

by John C. Smith

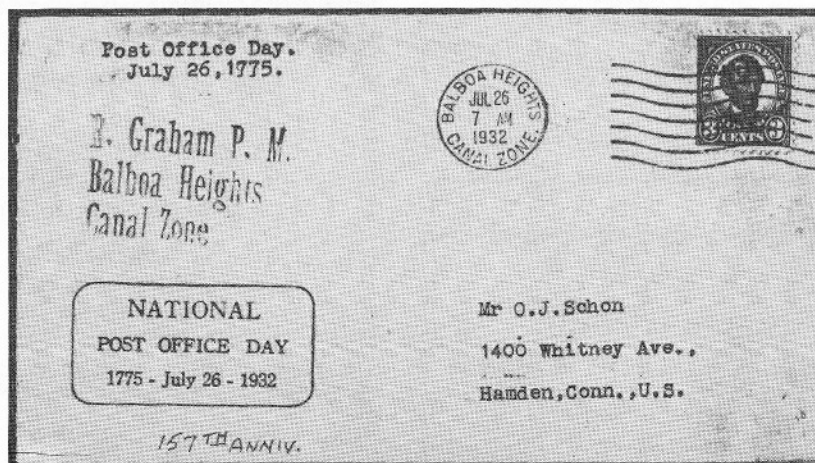
An unreported cachet honoring "National Post Office Day", July 26, 1775, is illustrated. This date marks the opening of the United States Post Office Department. The cover was postmarked Balboa Heights July 26, 1932, and closely ties the U.S. and CZ Postal Services. It is not known who designed the red rectangular printed cachet. The return address of R. Graham, Postmaster at Balboa Heights, suggests that he mailed a generic printed cover prepared in the U.S. Had Graham prepared the cachet himself, it seems that it would have surfaced long ago, and at least he would have honored the birth of his own postal service rather than that of the parent service in the U.S.

Local inquiry (in Chicago) failed to find a postal employee that had ever heard of National Post Office Day! However, the date has been confirmed and July 26, 1775, was indeed the birthday of the USPOD. This cover marks its 157th anniversary. It is important, but not shown, that Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first American Postmaster General on this date. In 1753 George III appointed 31 year old Franklin, then serving as Royal Postmaster in Philadelphia, as one of the two joint PMGs for the colonies. Franklin devoted much of his time to establishing the overland posts from Virginia north and, after the French and Indian Wars, into Canada. He held this position from 1753 until dismissed in 1774 because he sympathized with the colonists.

On the 26th of July 1775 the American Continental Congress assumed direction of the Post Office, reappointing Franklin to his former post and making him the nation's first PMG (1775-1776). His chief duties were to improve the mails to help General Washington's troops keep in touch. He held this position until becoming special representative and commissioner to France. Franklin's son-in-law, Richard Bache, was made PMG in November 1776.



FAM 5-2 [Colombia] - Cristobal - Miami.



National Post Office Day.

The CZPS has honored Franklin on four stamps and two pieces of stationery: Scott Nos. 4, 71, 100, 118, U6, and UX11.

Book Reviews

by David L. Farnsworth

Panama by Eric Zencey, reviewed in CZP 121:45 is now available in a paperback version (ISBN 0-425-15602-8), 385 pages, \$6.99.

Viva Panama: A New Sea Level Canal by Jon J. Hampel (Hudson, FL: John Hampel, 1996)(no ISBN), 266 + vi pages, 5 1/2" x 8 1/4" paperback, available from the author at PO Box 5208, Hudson, FL 34674, \$16.00 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling.

This book has a certain charm where the author describes his own experiences. However, the title page claims that this

is "The only book written about the Panama Canal since World War II", which is a rather sweeping statement. The second part of the title would lead one to think that the possibility of a sea-level canal is a main theme of the book, but it isn't.

As a personal story the book is interesting, but much of it is history which appears elsewhere. Niggling things that may bother some readers and that probably would have been eliminated by an editor are capitalization of some nouns ("Pirates" and "Globe" for example), words run together ("thePanama," for example), and page 57 not justified. There are photos, but the quality is not high. The same photo appears on pages 94 and 115. On page 120, two photos are copied from a book along with captions for unseen photos in that other book.

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Postal Stationery Update

CZSG will be issuing an update of the
United Postal Stationery Society's *The
Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone*.
Information is especially needed on UX1
and UX2 both with no surcharge on stamp
but one reversed in lower left corner. The
error was reported by Evans in 1911 but
has not been seen since. If you have any
new items or new earliest reported dates,
or other pertinent information please
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